

## MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.  
Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my first Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your Town for the year ended 31st. December 1939. In view of the increasing work in Public Health Departments of Local Authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, the Minister of Health in his Circular No. 2067 (19th. July 1940) has asked that the report be confined to essential and urgent matters which have arisen during the year.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	1,956 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) population mid-1939 appropriate to the calculation of Birth Rates.	6,155
(b) population appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	6,202
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)	1,751
Rateable value	£25,856
Sum represented by a penny rate	£99,17.10d.

The incidence of unemployment is very low and in some industries there is a shortage of labour.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate	87	46	41	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
(Illegitimate	4	3	1	estimated resident popula- tion
				14.67
Stillbirths	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 42.10
Deaths	71	41	30	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.44 After adjustment by the Comparability Factor 12.24

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	-
No.30. Other puerperal causes.	Nil.	-
Total	Nil.	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	54.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	34.48
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	500
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5
"    " Measles (all ages)	-
"    " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
"    " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1939.  
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

		M.	F.	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2.	Measles	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	1	-	1
5.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
6.	Influenza	2	1	3
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	1	1	2
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	2	2
10.	Other Tubercular Diseases	-	1	1
11.	Syphilis	-	-	-
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes dorsalis etc.	-	-	-
13.	Cancer	4	1	5
14.	Diabetes	1	1	2
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	2	3
16.	Heart Disease	15	7	22
17.	Aneurysm	-	-	-
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	-	3
19.	Bronchitis	-	2	2
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	4	-	4
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-
22.	Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
23.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	-
24.	Appendicitis	-	3	3
25.	Cirrhosis of the Liver	-	-	-
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver	-	-	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	-	1	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	-	-	-
29.	Periperal Sepsis	-	-	-
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Debility etc.	-	-	-
32.	Senility	2	2	4
33.	Suicide	-	1	1
34.	Other Deaths from Violence	3	1	4
35.	Other defined Diseases	3	4	7
36.	Ill-defined or Unknown	-	-	-
37.	Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	-	-	-
Totals		41	30	71

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no extension of these services during the year. Details of the services available will be found in previous reports.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - Throughout the year the piped supplies have been very satisfactory in quality and quantity. There has been no need for any improvement to the existing source of supply nor any important extension of mains.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No extension of the sewerage system has been carried out during the year and the Kinderton district is now the only part of the district which is in need of improved sewerage facilities.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year the number of conversions to the water

carriago system was 10 and only 2 houses still remain on the old system in built-up areas

### Public Cleansing.

The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets, etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

#### SANITARY OFFICERS' (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS 1935. ARTICLE 27 (18)

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections Made.	Number.	Number of Notices Results of service		
		Statutory	Informal	Remain- ing complied with hand.
Dwelling Houses	275	-	10	10
Housing Acts	7	-	7	7
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	10	-	3	3
Courts, Yards, Passages	6	-	2	2
Pail and Privy Closets	75	-	5	5
Water Closets	1,075	-	95	95
Ashbins, Ashpits and Disposal	1,550	-	130	130
House Drainage	5	-	1	1
Ditches and Watercourses	12	-	2	2
Keeping of Animals	20	-	4	4
Slaughterhouses	145	-	4	4
Inspection of Food	306	1	-	-
Piggeries	21	-	3	3
Dairies and Milkshops	27	-	2	2
Factories and Workshops	45	-	-	-
Bakchouses	36	-	1	1
Offensive Trades	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding	18	-	2	2
Miscellaneous	42	-	5	5
<b>Totals.</b>	<b>3,683</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>276</b>

### FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	No. of inspections:	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	20	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	20	2	-
Other premises	5	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

The main activities during the year can be summarized as follows:-

- 1.- Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.
- 1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts)

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	282
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.	17
11. - Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	17
111. - Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil
1V. Housing Act 1936 - Part 1V. Overcrowding:-	
(a)(i) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.	Nil
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.	Nil
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	2
(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	16
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil

## SECTION. E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The routine examination of farms and dairies has been continued during the year. No samples of milk were submitted to the Local Council's Laboratory for Bacterial content or for the presence of Tuberclle Bacilli.

(b) Meat and other Foods. - The following is a summary for the carcases inspected and condemned by the Sanitary Inspector during the year:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	-	280	1,025	20	852
Number inspected	-	270	850	20	723
<u>All Diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	10	3	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	4	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis.		0.37	0.35	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	0.07	-	-	-

No beasts carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order 1938 and no cases of Anthrax or Swine Fever were reported during the year.

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES,

(1) Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

By regulations dated October 23rd. 1939 the Minister of Health made Measles and Whooping Cough notifiable diseases and all Medical Practitioners in the District have been informed of the Regulations and supplied with forms of notification.

In July the Council decided upon a Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme to cover children between the ages of 1-14 years living in their area. The details of the Scheme were being worked out but with the outbreak of war and the pressure of other work action had to be deferred.

There is, however, a stock of Diphtheria Prophylactics provided by the Council which is available free of charge to Local Practitioners for the purpose of immunising any children who apply direct to them for the protective treatment.

As to the general incidence of Infectious Diseases, the year was noteworthy in that, after 5 years freedom from Diphtheria 35 cases of this Disease were notified and 28 of these occurred in the last three months of the year. I think there is a two-fold explanation for this outbreak, viz:-

(a) A Period of five years free from the Disease, allowed a child population to grow up in Middlewich with a low natural immunity to Diphtheria.

(b) The arrival in September into the Town of some 350 evacuees

some of whom were most probable "carriers" of the germs of Diphtheria in their noses and throats.

Both of these facts taken together resulted in an outbreak of a mild form of Diphtheria and no deaths resulted therefrom.

The steps taken to limit the spread of this outbreak included repeated medical inspection of the scholars of the Roman Catholic School, the removal to Hospital of "carriers", the disinfection of the whole of the school premises and finally closure of the School from October 23rd. to November 5th. 1939.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria Bacilli	128	27	101
Bacillus typhosus etc.	-	-	-

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital		Total Deaths
		M.	F.	
Scarlet Fever	1	1		-
Diphtheria	35	35		-
Enteric Fever	-	-		-
Pneumonia	26	-		2
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1		-
Erysipelas	2	1		1
Measles	5	-		-
Whooping Cough	-	-		1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis during 1939.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respir.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5-15 "	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1
15-25 "	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45-55 "	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
55-65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	3	2	5	-	2	-	1

Number of patients on register at 31.12.38 -31

" " " " " 31.12.39.-39

6 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; none being reported on as positive.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of Bed-Bugs was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected once during the year and 5 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating Bed-Bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report, how much I value and appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,  
W.S. SLATER,

Medical Officer of Health.

4th November 1940.